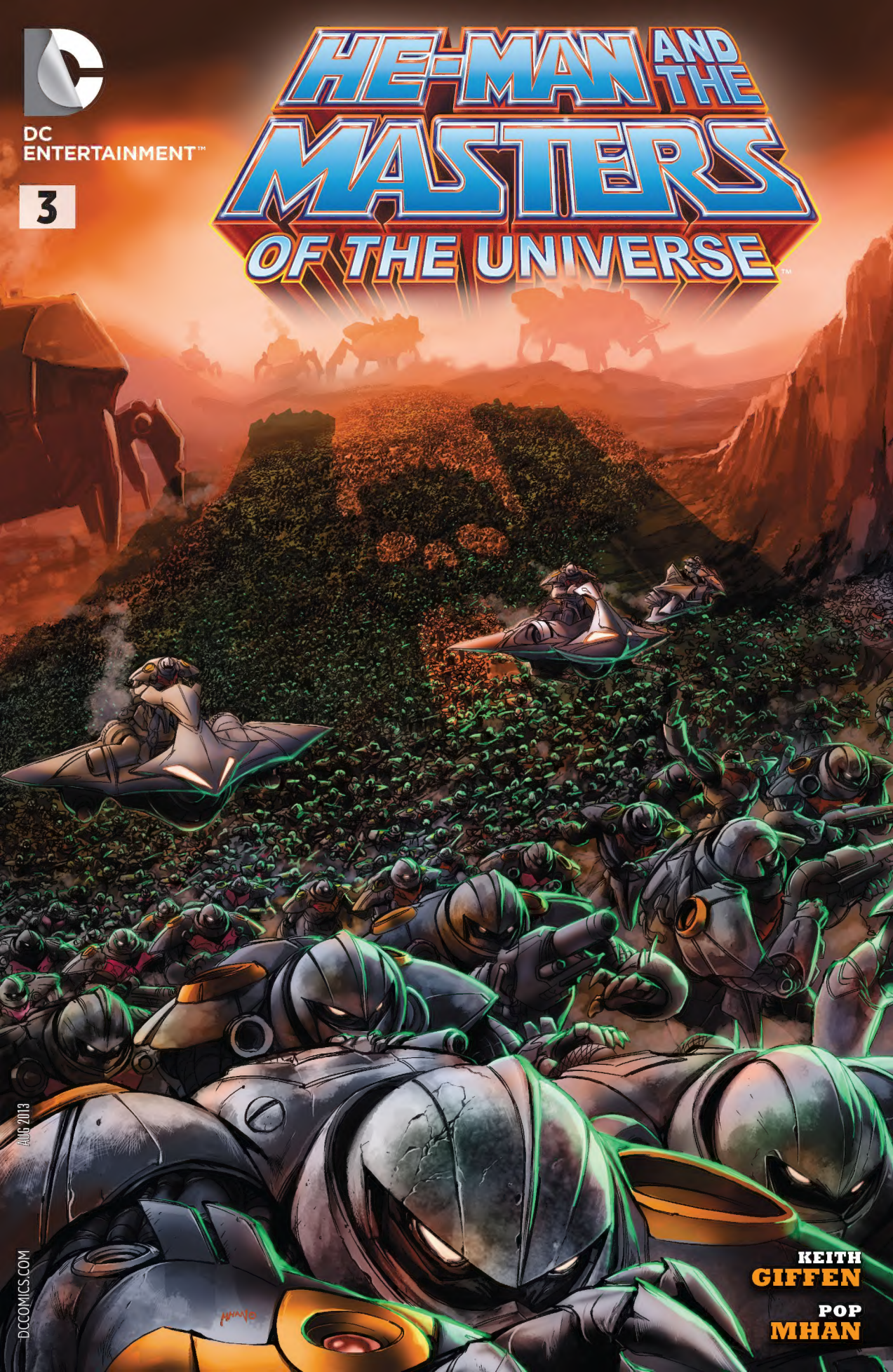
DC ENTERTAINMENT™
3
HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™
AUG 2013
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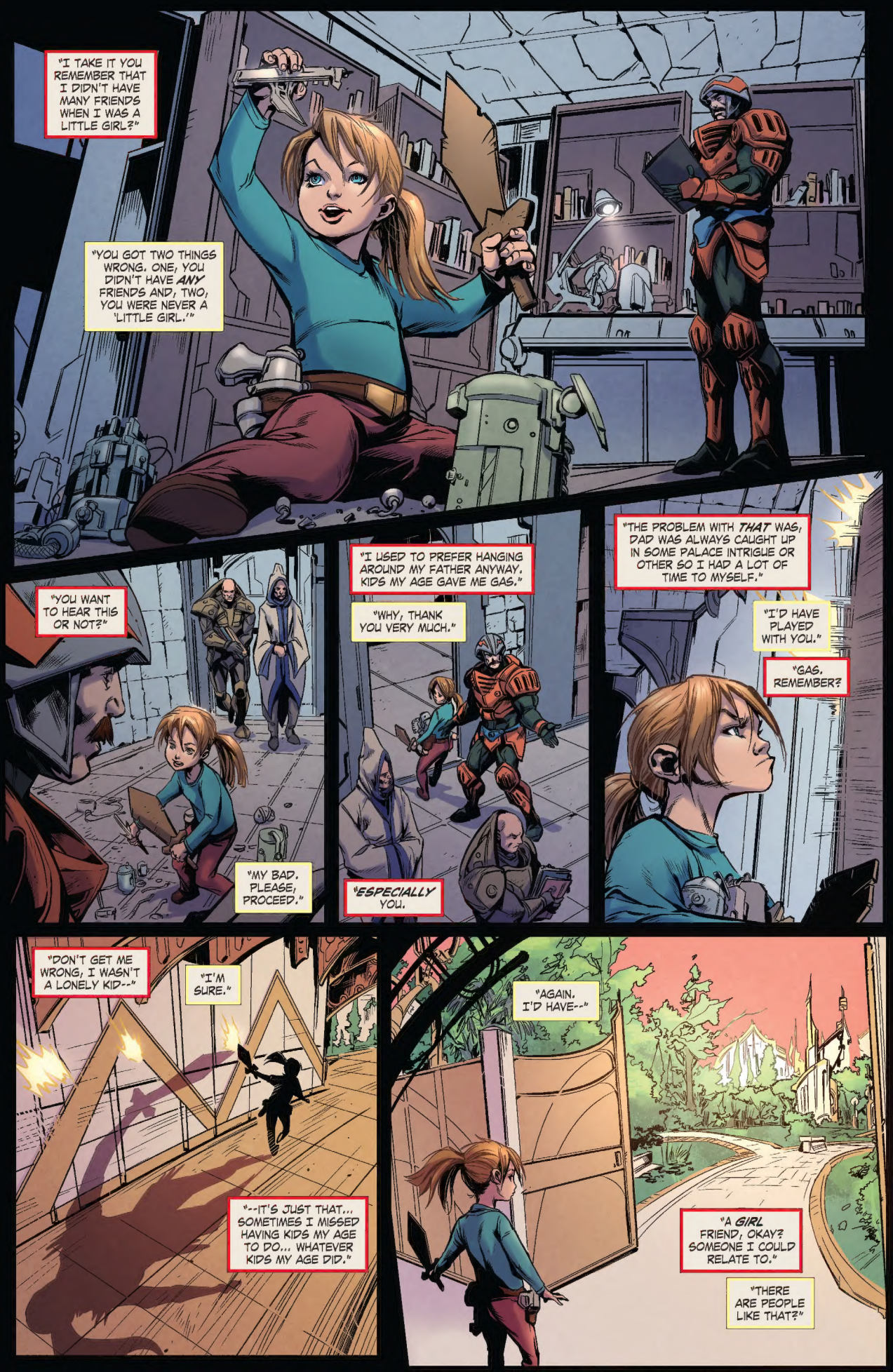
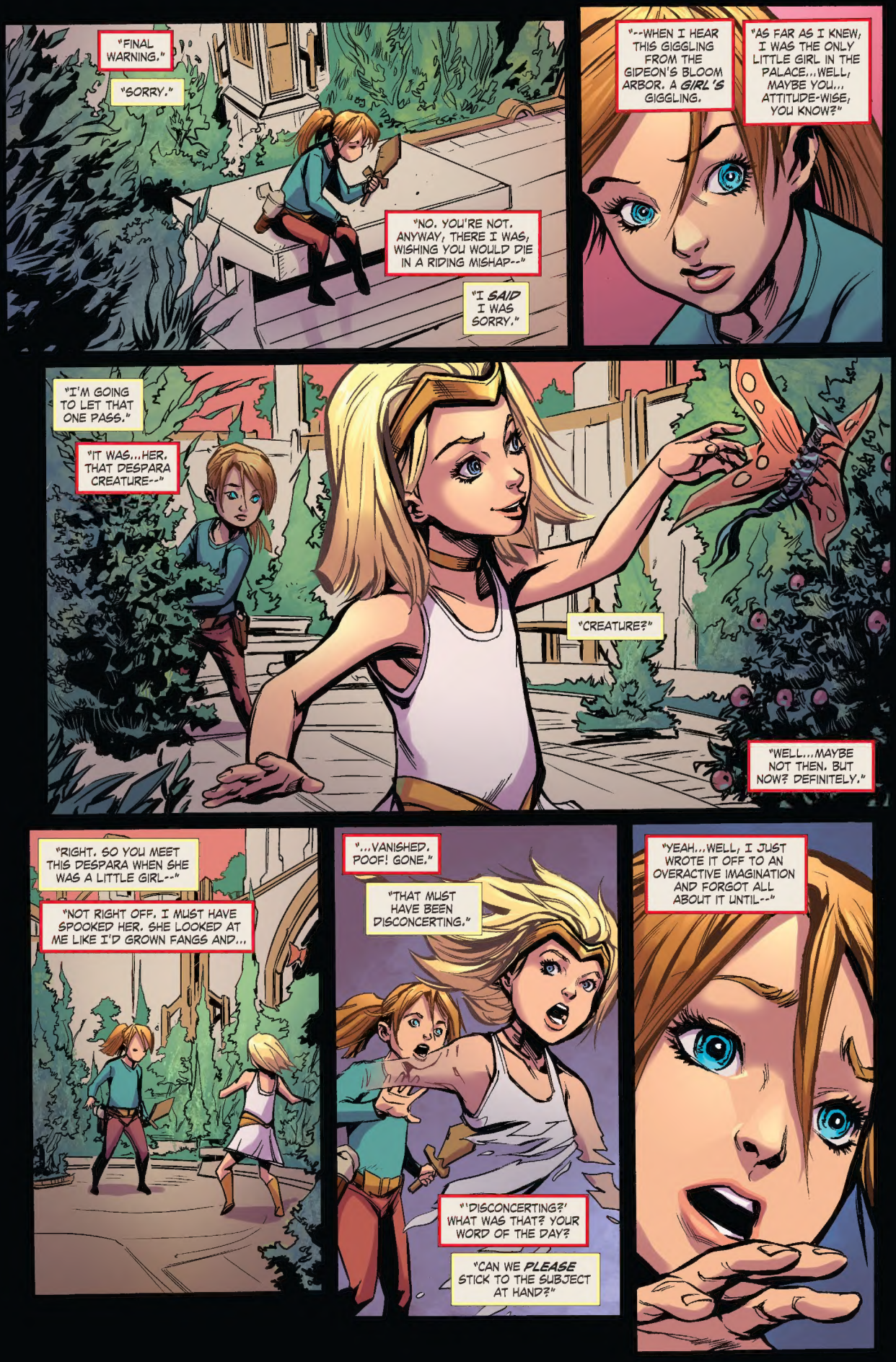
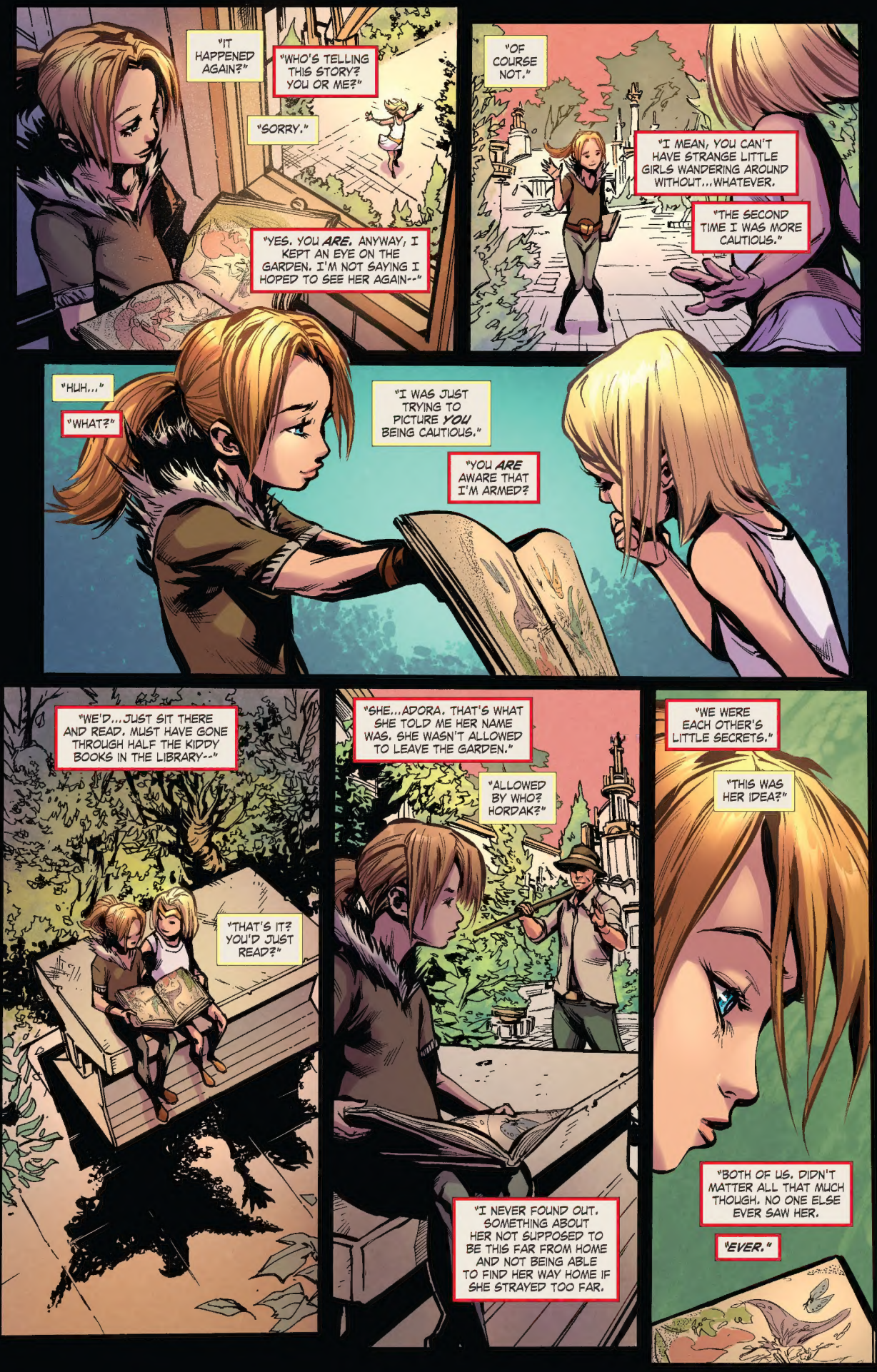
KEITH GIFFEN
POP MHAN


"I TAKE IT YOU REMEMBER THAT I DIDN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL?"
"YOU GOT TWO THINGS WRONG. ONE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE *ANY* FRIENDS AND, TWO, YOU WERE NEVER A 'LITTLE GIRL.'"
"YOU WANT TO HEAR THIS OR NOT?"
"MY BAD. PLEASE, PROCEED."
"I USED TO PREFER HANGING AROUND MY FATHER ANYWAY. KIDS MY AGE GAVE ME GAS."
"WHY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH."
"*ESPECIALLY* YOU.
"THE PROBLEM WITH *THAT* WAS, DAD WAS ALWAYS CAUGHT UP IN SOME PALACE INTRIGUE OR OTHER SO I HAD A LOT OF TIME TO MYSELF."
"I'D HAVE PLAYED WITH YOU."
"GAS, REMEMBER?
"DON'T GET ME WRONG, I WASN'T A LONELY KID--"
"I'M SURE."
"--IT'S JUST THAT... SOMETIMES I MISSED HAVING KIDS MY AGE TO DO... WHATEVER KIDS MY AGE DID."
"AGAIN, I'D HAVE--"
"A *GIRL* FRIEND, OKAY? SOMEONE I COULD RELATE TO."
"THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT?"


"FINAL WARNING."
"SORRY."
"NO. YOU'RE NOT. ANYWAY, THERE I WAS, WISHING YOU WOULD DIE IN A RIDING MISHAP--"
"I SAID I WAS SORRY."
"--WHEN I HEAR THIS GIGGLING FROM THE GIDEON'S BLOOM ARBOR. A GIRL'S GIGGLING.
"AS FAR AS I KNEW, I WAS THE ONLY LITTLE GIRL IN THE PALACE...WELL, MAYBE YOU... ATTITUDE-WISE, YOU KNOW?"
"I'M GOING TO LET THAT ONE PASS."
"IT WAS...HER. THAT DESPARA CREATURE--"
"CREATURE?"
"WELL...MAYBE NOT THEN. BUT NOW? DEFINITELY."
"RIGHT. SO YOU MEET THIS DESPARA WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL--"
"NOT RIGHT OFF. I MUST HAVE SPOOKED HER. SHE LOOKED AT ME LIKE I'D GROWN FANGS AND...
"...VANISHED. POOF! GONE."
"THAT MUST HAVE BEEN DISCONCERTING."
"'DISCONCERTING?' WHAT WAS THAT? YOUR WORD OF THE DAY?
"CAN WE PLEASE STICK TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND?"
"YEAH...WELL, I JUST WROTE IT OFF TO AN OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION AND FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT UNTIL--"

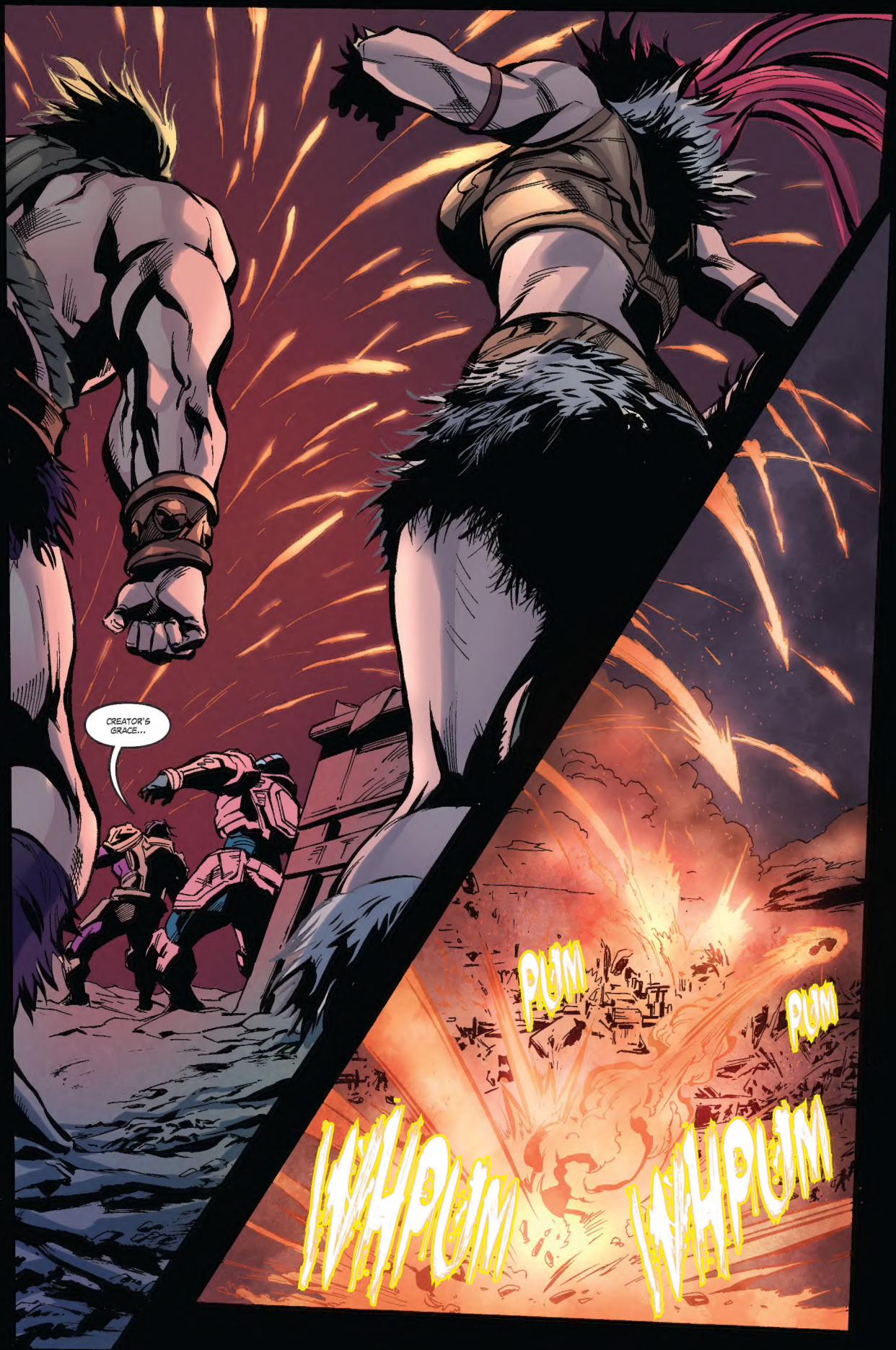

"IT HAPPENED AGAIN?"
"WHO'S TELLING THIS STORY? YOU OR ME?"
"SORRY."
"YES. YOU ARE. ANYWAY, I KEPT AN EYE ON THE GARDEN. I'M NOT SAYING I HOPED TO SEE HER AGAIN--"
"OF COURSE NOT."
"I MEAN, YOU CAN'T HAVE STRANGE LITTLE GIRLS WANDERING AROUND WITHOUT...WHATEVER.
"THE SECOND TIME I WAS MORE CAUTIOUS."
"HUH..."
"WHAT?"
"I WAS JUST TRYING TO PICTURE YOU BEING CAUTIOUS."
"YOU ARE AWARE THAT I'M ARMED?
"WE'D...JUST SIT THERE AND READ. MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH HALF THE KIDDY BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY--"
"THAT'S IT? YOU'D JUST READ?"
"SHE...ADORA. THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME HER NAME WAS. SHE WASN'T ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GARDEN."
"ALLOWED BY WHO? HORDAK?"
"I NEVER FOUND OUT. SOMETHING ABOUT HER NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS FAR FROM HOME AND NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND HER WAY HOME IF SHE STRAYED TOO FAR.
"WE WERE EACH OTHER'S LITTLE SECRETS."
"THIS WAS HER IDEA?"
"BOTH OF US. DIDN'T MATTER ALL THAT MUCH THOUGH. NO ONE ELSE EVER SAW HER.
"EVER."

THEN, ONE DAY...SHE JUST STOPPED COMING. WITH THE PASSING OF YEARS, IT WASN'T A FAR JUMP TO "IMAGINARY FRIEND."
YOU DIDN'T MISS HER?
I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I JUST SAID I GREW UP. OKAY?
AND NOW SHE'S BACK.
YEAH. NOW SHE'S BACK.
SIEGE!
written by KEITH GIFFEN
art by POP MHAN and MATEO GUERRERO
colors by KATHRYN LAYNO and WENDY BROOME
letters by SAIDA TEMOFONTE
cover by POP MHAN
edited by MICHAEL McCALISTER

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT MIGHT GIVE US AN EDGE?
WHAT? LIKE SHE'S AFRAID OF SPIDERS OR HEIGHTS OR LIKE THAT?
ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP.
NO, NOTHING LIKE--
GAH!
THEIR FORWARD DEFENSE PERIMETER'S IN MOTION! THEY ARE ON THE MOVE!
FECKLESS, NECK STRETCHING POLTROON! A LITTLE WARNING NEXT TIME!?
HOW DO YOU WARN SOMEONE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO SPREAD THE ALARM?
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M TALKING TO YOU, MEKANUISANCE!
WHAT WAS TEELA SO UPSET ABOUT? I KEYED IN ON HER AUDIO FROM HALF THE CASTLE'S WIDTH.
SHE HAS ISSUES.
YES. IT WOULD SEEM SO.
HOW DO YOU THINK OUR TRADITIONAL FOES ARE FARING? EVIL-LYN, THE STINKOR CREATURE...?
STINKOR!? CREATOR'S GRACE, DO NOT BRING HIM UP IN FRONT OF TEELA. YOU THINK SHE'S GOT PROBLEMS WITH MEKANECK...

IS THAT--
TEELA. RIGHT.
HOW DID SHE...? WE...
MY GUESS WOULD BE SHE JUMPED.
JUMPED? FROM THAT HEIGHT?

WHAT TOOK YOU?
OUR COMMON SENSE. YOU KNOW, THE THING TELLS US NOT TO JUMP OFF OF--
I CLIMBED, OKAY? THERE'S ALL KINDS OF JUTS AND LEDGES STICKING OUT OF THIS CHUNK OF STONES.
WHAT HAVE WE GOT?
MOVEMENT. OF WHAT AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE... UNKNOWN.
TROOP MOVEMENTS? MAYBE THEY'RE MASSING FOR AN ASSAULT?
IT'S NOT ORGANIC.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TWELVE-HOUR "GRACE" PERIOD?
THAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR THE FIRST ASSAULT. THEY'RE MOVING TO SOFTEN US UP FOR THE FIRST ASSAULT.
THAT CERTAIN?
IT'S WHAT I'D DO.
GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, ROBOTO, SPREAD THE WORD. EVERYBODY DIGS IN. WE DON'T KNOW HOW BAD THIS INITIAL BARRAGE IS GOING TO BE AND--
BAD. VERY, VERY BAD.


CREATOR'S GRACE...
PUM
PUM
WHPUM
WHPUM

WHPUM
WHPUM
INSIDE AND PRAY GRAYSKULL WEATHERS IT!
MAJESTY!
PUM
PUM
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THEY'RE BRINGING THE ENTIRE CASTLE DOWN AROUND US!
GRAYSKULL WILL HOLD!
YOUR LIPS TO MY EARS...
NOW WHAT?

OH... WONDERFUL.

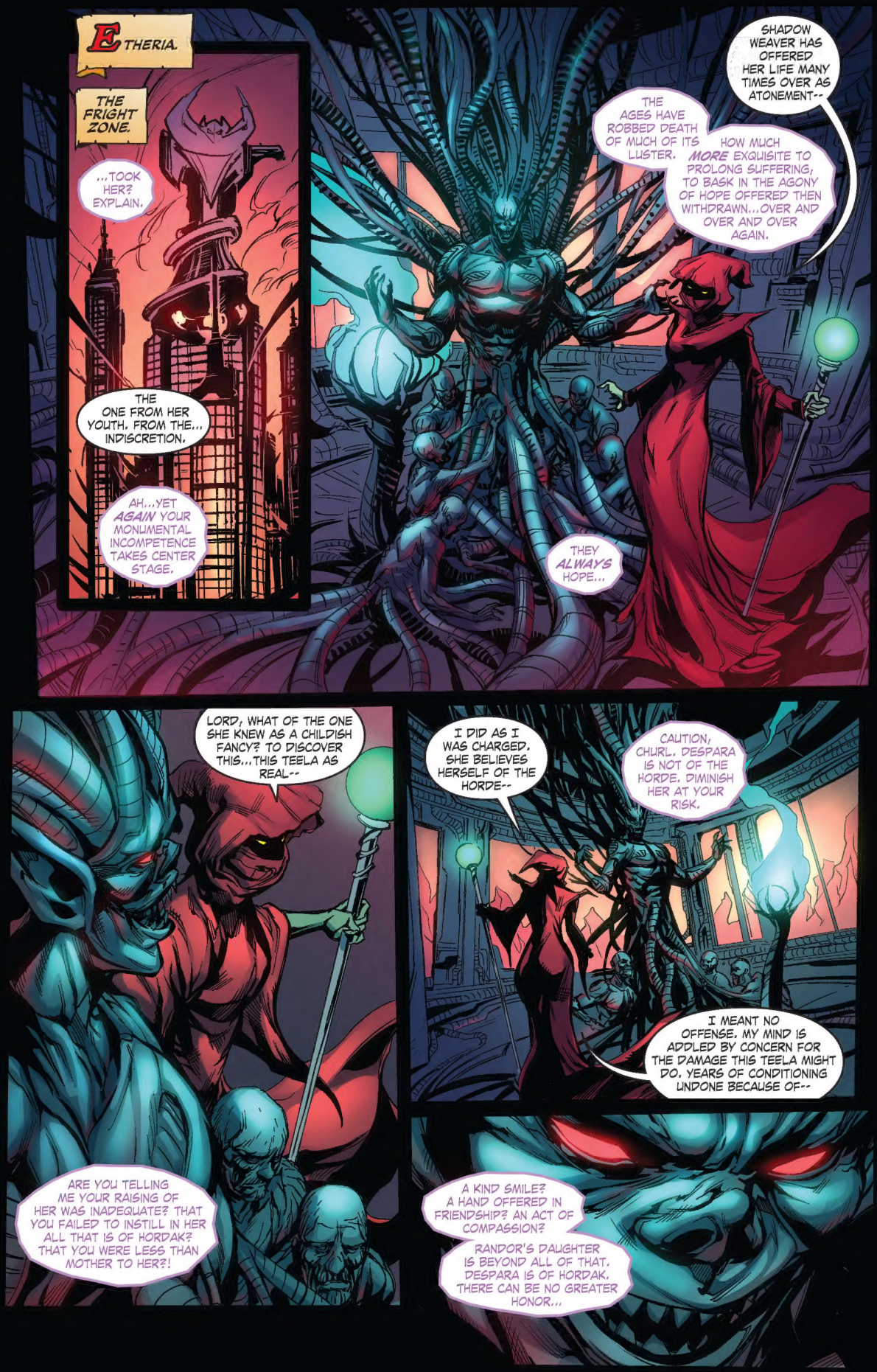
DEAL WITH THEM! THE GIRL IS MINE!
ROBOTO! SEE TO THE KING!
THE KING CAN SEE TO HIMSELF!
TCHAK

NICE TRICK. WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST BLINK YOUR ENTIRE ARMY IN HERE AND BE DONE WITH IT?
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE ONE OF HORDAK'S I WOULD HAVE CLOBBERED YOU WITH THAT BOOK!
NO. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE.
IT'S THE LOGISTICS, ISN'T IT? THE BIGGER THE FORCE BEING 'PORTED, THE MORE OPEN THE TERRAIN HAS TO BE. OTHERWISE YOU RISK KILLING TOO MANY--
STILL A ONE-TRACK MIND! I'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU'D OUTGROW THAT!

I THOUGHT I'D OUTGROWN YOU!
AARH!
ROBOTO!
CHOK
YOUR CONCERN IS MISPLACED!
NOT TODAY, TEELA.
NOR EVER IF YOU CHOOSE RIGHT.
TEELA!

HUH? TEELA...?
TEELA! IS SHE INJURED?!
I... I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S GONE.
GONE?! THAT'S... TEELA'S NEVER RUN FROM A FIGHT!
NOT THAT KIND OF GONE. TAKEN. THE DESPARA WOMAN TOOK HER.
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS...THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT. CAPITALIZE ON THE BOMBARDMENT TO--
THEN WHY NOT TAKE THE KING?! OR HE-MAN?! WHY TEELA?!
WE WERE NEVER FRIENDS...
FRIENDS? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH--
DUNCAN...WE'LL GET HER BACK. SEE TO THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. WE'VE GOT TO ASSESS DAMAGES.
SEE TO... HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?! THEY TOOK TEELA! THEY TOOK MY DAUGHT--
MAN-AT-ARMS! SEE TO YOUR CHARGES!

HE IS HER FATHER--
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?! HE'S ALSO GENERAL OF THE GUARD AND A DEFENDER OF THE REALM!
I... GUESS THERE IS NOT MUCH I CAN ADD TO THAT.
WE WILL GET HER BACK. I SWEAR IT. BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL I *SWEAR* IT!


ETHERIA.
THE FRIGHT ZONE.
...TOOK HER? EXPLAIN.
THE ONE FROM HER YOUTH. FROM THE... INDISCRETION.
AH...YET AGAIN YOUR MONUMENTAL INCOMPETENCE TAKES CENTER STAGE.
THE AGES HAVE ROBBED DEATH OF MUCH OF ITS LUSTER.
HOW MUCH MORE EXQUISITE TO PROLONG SUFFERING, TO BASK IN THE AGONY OF HOPE OFFERED THEN WITHDRAWN...OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
SHADOW WEAVER HAS OFFERED HER LIFE MANY TIMES OVER AS ATONEMENT--
THEY ALWAYS HOPE...
LORD, WHAT OF THE ONE SHE KNEW AS A CHILDISH FANCY? TO DISCOVER THIS...THIS TEELA AS REAL--
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOUR RAISING OF HER WAS INADEQUATE? THAT YOU FAILED TO INSTILL IN HER ALL THAT IS OF HORDAK? THAT YOU WERE LESS THAN MOTHER TO HER?!
I DID AS I WAS CHARGED. SHE BELIEVES HERSELF OF THE HORDE--
CAUTION, CHURL. DESPARA IS NOT OF THE HORDE. DIMINISH HER AT YOUR RISK.
I MEANT NO OFFENSE. MY MIND IS ADDLED BY CONCERN FOR THE DAMAGE THIS TEELA MIGHT DO. YEARS OF CONDITIONING UNDONE BECAUSE OF--
A KIND SMILE? A HAND OFFERED IN FRIENDSHIP? AN ACT OF COMPASSION?
RANDOR'S DAUGHTER IS BEYOND ALL OF THAT. DESPARA IS OF HORDAK. THERE CAN BE NO GREATER HONOR...

YOU SPEAK AS IF YOU HAD A CHOICE.
I COULD HAVE GONE AFTER HER.
COULD YOU HAVE? AND *WHERE* WOULD YOU HAVE GONE?
IF SHE'D WANTED TEELA DEAD, SHE'D HAVE SLAIN HER, NOT TAKEN HER.
TELL THAT TO DUNCAN.
DUNCAN WILL COME AROUND.
SHOULD HE? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HIS *DAUGHTER.*
A POINT WELL MADE, IF IRRELEVANT TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.
TEELA IS *NOT* IRRELEVANT.
I FORBID IT.
IT?
DON'T. YOU DON'T HANDLE DECEPTION WELL. YOU HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF SETTING OFF AFTER TEELA.
YOU ARE NEEDED HERE. ETERNIA HAS GREATER NEED OF YOU.
AS YOUR KING I COMMAND YOU STAY. AS YOUR FATHER...I FEEL YOUR PAIN.
FOR ALL THE GOOD *THAT* WILL DO!
COULD HAVE GONE BETTER, THAT COULD HAVE.
IF HE IS TO BE KING, HE MUST LEARN THAT HARD LESSONS ARE HARD TAUGHT.
HE KNOWS I AM RIGHT...

A ROYAL COMMAND! TO ME! HIS SON! WHEN TEELA NEEDS ME MOST MY HAND IS STAYED BY A ROYAL COMMAND!
SO, OLD FRIEND, WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME AS I COMMIT AN ACT OF TREASON AND DISOBEY A ROYAL COMMAND?
I WONDER WHAT THE PENALTY IS FOR DOING WHAT'S RIGHT IN SPITE OF THE COMMAND GIVEN?
=SIGH= SOON FIND OUT.
ARE YOU THAT ANXIOUS TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY, ADAM OF ETERNIA?
WHO...? SHOW YOURSELF!
I HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW. AS FOR WHO...DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE MY VOICE? HAS IT BEEN SO LONG?
SORCERESS! BUT YOU... YOU'RE...
GRAYSKULL IS A CRUEL MASTER. TO DIE WITHIN ITS WALLS IS TO BE DEVOURED...THE BETTER TO COMFORT IT AND SERVE THE VERY POWER GRAYSKULL WAS BUILT TO PROTECT AND CONTAIN.
IT IS CURSE AND BLESSING; OF PLEASURE AND PAIN. IT IS AS IT MUST BE IF GRAYSKULL IS TO SURVIVE.
THE ENEMY HAS TAKEN TEELA... TAKEN YOUR DAUGHTER! HAS THIS FORCED YOUR HAND?
ATTEND...

WH-WHAT...? WHAT WAS...?
A POSSIBLE DESTINY, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT WHAT GRAYSKULL OFFERS.
ACCEPT?
BUT AS SORCERESS, YOU HAVE SERVED ETERNIA WELL.
HOPEFULLY DEATH HAS NOT BLUNTED YOUR COUNSEL.
IT WILL TAKE GREATER THAN YOU POSSESS TO FREE ETERNIA. GRAYSKULL KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME.
GRAYSKULL IS MORTAR AND STONE!
YOU KNOW BETTER.
...
DUNCAN WAS RIGHT. AS A MOTHER YOU *ARE* AN ILL FIT.
"I AM TAKING THIS *WAY* TOO CASUALLY..."
next issue: COUNTERSTRIKE!